

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-10 IO-10 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

/085 W

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R 160714Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2799

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU

UNCLAS BANGKOK 6514

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR MARR TH. US

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER KHUKRIT ON U.S. TROOP WITHDRAWALS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

PRIME MINISTER KHUKRIT PRAMOT MET BRIEFLY WITH NEWSMEN AT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS' 100TH ANNIVERSARY RECEPTION APRIL 14. THE FOLLOWING IS AN INFORMAL USIS TRANSLATION OF KHUKRIT'S REMARKS PERTAINING TO U.S. TROOP WITHDRAWALS. BEGIN EXCERTS:

REPORTER: IT IS IN REGARD TO THE STATMENT MADE BY FOFOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI THAT NEGOTIATIONS ARE ALREADY BEING HELD WITH THE UNITED STATES ON THE WITHDRAWAL OF BASES.

KHUKRIT: THAT IS TRUE.

REPORTER: IS IT TRUE?

KHUKRIT: YES.

REPORTER: WHAT POINT HAS BEEN REACHED NOW?

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KHUKRIT: NO POINT HAS BEEN REACHED YET, BUT IT IS TRUE THAT NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN STARTED ALREADY. THEY HAVE BEEN STARTED IN WASHINGTON. AND THEY ARE CONTINUING AND WILL CONTINUE STEADILY. I HAVEN'T RECEIVED A REPORT YET, GIVING ADDITIONAL OF FURTHER DETAILS.

REPORTER: HOW LONG DO YOU THINK THEY WILL TAKE?

KHUKRIT: WE HAVE GIVEN THEM AS LONG AS ONE YEAR.

REPORTER: DOES THAT MEAN 12 MONTHS?

KHUKRIT YES.

REPORTER: MIGHT WE MAKE ANY CHANGE, IN VIEW OF THE PRESENT SITUATION?

KHUKRIT: I DON'T THINK THERE WILL BE ANY CHANGE. THE MORE WE LOOK, THE GREATER WE CAN SEE THAT THEIR PRESENCE HERE... IS LIKE T H.

REPORTER: WILL YOU PLEASE ELABRATE.

KHUKRIT: NO ELABORATION AS HAS BEEN SAID ALREADY... THE TIME HAS BEEN REACHED. THE POLICY STATED THAT WITHDRAWALS WILL BE WITHIN ONE YEAR IS NOT CHANGED.

REPORTER: DOES THAT MEAN THAT WITHDRAWALS WILL BE STARTED WITHIN ONE YEAR, OR THAT THEY WILL BE COMPLETELY WITHDRAWN?

KHUKRIT: WITHDRAWALS WILL BE COMPLETED WITHIN ONE YEAR'S TIME.

REPORTER: ARE WE TAKING THIS ACTION BECAUSE IT IS WHAT IS WANTED BY THE PEOPLE, OR IS IT BECAUSE OUR POLICY IS FAR-SIGHTED AND CONSIDERS THAT THIS WILL BE A PLAY SAFE". METHOD FOR...

KHUKRIT: IT IS POLICY. IF THE PEOPLE WANT ANYTHING, UNCLASSIFIED

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SHOULD WANT THEY WANT BE DAMAGING FOR OUR COUNTRY. WE WOULD HAVE TO EXPRESS RESPECT FOR THE DESIRE OF THE PEOPLE, OR PUBLIC OPINION, BUT WE COULD NOT LISTEN TO IT ALWAYS. BUT IN THIS CASE. IT IS POLICY. WE HAVE SEEN ALREADY THAT THEY (THE U.S. TROOPS) OUGHT NOT TO CONTINUE REMAINING HERE. WE WILL DEFINITELY ADHERE TO OUR POLICY FOR THEM TO BE WITHDRAWN. MASTERS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Draft Date:** 16 APR 1975  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
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